

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An appliance located states accumulating method of accumulating data of a positional relation of positions where a plurality of appliances mutually connected through a network are located, comprising the steps of:

(a) receiving state information indicative of operating state changes of the appliances constituted of a distributed computer through said network;

(b) calculating an occurrence time difference from the state changes occurred in the appliances in accordance with occurrence time information indicative of occurrence times of the state changes included in the state information; and

(c) calculating the positional relation of the positions, where the appliances occur the state changes, from the calculated occurrence time difference.

2. A method according to claim 1, wherein said step (c) calculates the positional relation in accordance with the occurrence time difference of the state changes occurred in the two appliances and relationship weight information indicative of a distance between the two appliances with both previously stored.

3. A method according to claim 2, wherein said relationship weight information is a value calculated by a predetermined expression in accordance with two elements: number of times of occurring the state

changes; and the occurrence time difference of the state changes occurred in the two appliances.

4. An apparatus constituted of a plurality of appliances mutually connected through a network and for accumulating data of a positional relation of positions where the appliances are located, comprising:

a reception means receiving state information indicating operating state changes of the appliances constituted of a distributed computer through said network;

calculation means calculating an occurrence time difference from the state changes occurred in the appliances in accordance with occurrence time information indicative of occurrence times of the state changes included in the state information; and

calculation means calculating the positional relation of the positions, where the appliances occur the state changes, from the calculated occurrence time difference.

5. An apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said calculation means calculates the positional relation in accordance with the occurrence time difference of the state changes occurred in the two appliances and relationship weight information indicative of a distance between the two appliances with both previously stored.

6. An apparatus according to claim 5, further comprising storing means for storing the occurrence

time difference of the state changes occurred in the two appliances and the relationship weight information indicative of the distance between the two appliances.

7. An apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the relationship weight information is a value calculated by a predetermined expression in accordance with two elements: number of times of occurring the state changes; and the occurrence time difference of the state changes occurred in the two appliances.

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